

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 IO-14 ACDA-19

SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /125 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0318

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02170

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ER, GE, GW, UR, US, UK, WB, FR

SUBJECT: FRG PRESS HANDLING OF KISSINGER-GROMYKO TALKS  
ON BERLIN

REF: BONN 2030

1. EMBOFF RAISED VON WECHMAR PRESS CONFERENCE OF  
FEBRUARY 6 (REFTEL) WITH SENIOR FRG FONOFF REP ON  
FEBRUARY 7. EMBOFF QUESTIONED PROPRIETY OF PRESS  
SPOKESMAN REFERRING AT SOME LENGTH TO SECRETARY KISSING-  
ER'S TALKS WITH GROMYKO CONCERNING RECENT BERLIN  
PROBLEMS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ACCOUNT OF THESE  
PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL TALKS HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO FRG  
ON A STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS AND NOT FOR USE IN A  
PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. FONOFF REP WAS APOLOGETIC, STATING THAT VON WECHMAR  
SHOULD HAVE CLEARED HIS COMMENTS BEFOREHAND WITH THE  
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FONOFF WHICH IN TURN WOULD HAVE CLEARED THEM WITH US

SIDE. HOWEVER, THE PRESSURES ON THE BONN GOVERNMENT HAD BECOME EXTREME ON THE SENSITIVE BERLIN ISSUES IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, AND VON WECHMAR OBVIOUSLY TRIED TO PRESENT AS GOOD AND SOLID A GOVERNMENT CASE AS HE COULD. FONOFF SOURCE WENT ON TO SAY THAT VON WECHMAR HAD BEEN CAREFUL TO KEEP HIS STATEMENTS FAIRLY GENERAL AND NOT TO DIVULGE ANY OF THE DETAILS OF THE SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART.

3. OUR SOURCE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT VON WECHMAR HAD IN FACT TRIED TO STAY WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PRESS COVERAGE OF THE BILATERAL TALKS THAT HAD EMANATED FROM WASHINGTON IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. HE NOTED THAT BAHR HIMSELF HAD GIVEN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON MAKING SOME OF THE POINTS VON WECHMAR HAD USED. IN CONCLUSION, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD PASS ALONG OUR CONCERN TO THE FEDERAL PRESS OFFICE SO AS TO AVOID SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES IN THE FUTURE. EMBOFF SAID THIS WOULD BE MOST USEFUL.

4. COMMENT. WE HOPE THIS APPROACH TO FRG WILL CAUSE THEIR OFFICIALS TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS IN THEIR USE OF INFORMATION STEMMING FROM WASHINGTON. WE WOULD ADD, HOWEVER, THAT THE VON WECHMAR STATEMENT DID NOT IN FACT GO MUCH BEYOND WHAT HAS APPEARED PREVIOUSLY IN THE GERMAN PRESS UNDER WASHINGTON DATELINES.  
HILLENBRAND

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**TAGS:** PGOV, GC, GE, UR, US, UK, WB, FR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (GROMYKO, ANATOLIY ANDREYEVICH)  
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